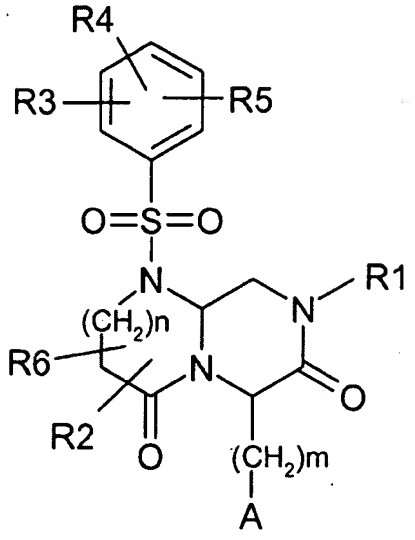
1. (currently amended). A compound of the formula I:



I

wherein

A is a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-, 9-, 10-, 11-, and 12-membered mono-, bi- or spirobicyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from the group of N, O and S, and is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, NO_2, CF_3, OCF_3, CN, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, aryl, CON(R11)(R12), N(R13)(R14), OH, O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, S-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, N(R15)CO$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or COO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl;

R11, R12, R13, R14, R15 are each independently H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or a heterocycle;

n is [[0 or]] 1;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

R1 is R8, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylene-R8, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, (SO_2)-R8, (SO_2)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylene-R8, (SO_2)-$(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, (C=O)-R8, (C=O)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylene-R8, (C=O)NH-R8, (C=O)-$(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, (C=O)-NH-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylene-R8, (C=O)-NH- $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, COO-R8, COO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylene-R8, COO-$(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, alkynylene-R9 or $(C_1$-C_4-alkyl)-heterocycle, wherein the alkylene component of said $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylene-R8, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, (SO_2)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-

alkylene-R8, (SO_2)-$(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, (C=O)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylene-R8, (C=O)-$(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, (C=O)-NH-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylene-R8, (C=O)-NH- $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, COO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkylene-R8, COO-$(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenylene-R9 and alkynylene-R9 groups is optionally substituted by F;

R8, R9 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, aryl, heterocycle or $(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkyl, wherein said aryl, heterocycle and $(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkyl groups are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, NH_2, CON(R11)(R12), N(R13)(R14), SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

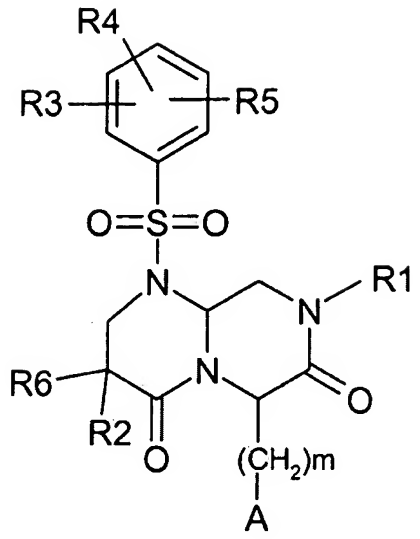
R2 is NH_2, NO_2, N(R13)(R14), NH-SO_2-CH_3, NH-SO_2-R12, NR11-SO_2-R12, N(CO)R11, NHCONR11, N$(C_1$-C_6-alkyl$)N^+(C_1$-C_4-alkyl$)_3$ or a nitrogen-containing heterocycle, wherein said heterocycle is bonded via a nitrogen atom;

R3, R4, R5 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, O-$(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkoxy-$(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkyl, S-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenyl, $(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkyl, O-$(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkenyl, O-$(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkynyl, aryl, O-aryl $(C_1$-$C_8)$-alkylene-aryl, O-$(C_1$-$C_8)$-alkylene-aryl, S-aryl, N$((C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or CO-N$((C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$;

R6 is H, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, O-$(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkoxy-$(C_1$-$C_4)$-alkyl, S-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkenyl, $(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkyl, O-$(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkenyl, O-$(C_3$-$C_8)$-cycloalkenyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$-alkynyl, $(C_0$-$C_8)$-alkylene-aryl, O-$(C_0$-$C_8)$-alkylene-aryl, S-aryl, N$((C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$, SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl or CO-N$((C_1$-$C_6)$-alkyl$)_2$;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. (original). The compound of Claim 1 having the following structure Ia



Ia

wherein

A is a 3-, 4-, 5-, 6-, 7-, 8-, 9-, 10-, 11-, and 12-membered mono-, bi- or spirobicyclic ring containing one or more heteroatoms selected from the group of N, O and S, and is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, NO_2, CF_3, OCF_3, CN, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, aryl, CON(R11)(R12), N(R13)(R14), OH, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N(R15)CO(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl;

R11, R12, R13, R14, R15 are each independently H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or a heterocycle;

m is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

R1 is R8, (C_1-C_6)-alkylene-R8, (C_2-C_6)-alkenylene-R9, (SO_2)-R8, (SO_2)-(C_1-C_6)-alkylene-R8, (SO_2)-(C_2-C_6)-alkenylene-R9, (C=O)-R8, (C=O)-(C_1-C_6)-alkylene-R8, (C=O)NH-R8, (C=O)-(C_2-C_6)-alkenylene-R9, (C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_6)-alkylene-R8, (C=O)-NH- (C_2-C_6)-alkenylene-R9, COO-R8, COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkylene-R8, COO-(C_2-C_6)-alkenylene-R9, alkynylene-R9 or $(C_1-C_4$-alkyl)-heterocycle;

R8, R9 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, aryl, heterocycle or (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl, wherein said aryl, heterocycle and (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl groups are optionally mono-, di- or tri-substituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-

$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, NH_2, CON(R11)(R12), N(R13)(R14), $SO_2\text{-}CH_3$, COOH, $COO\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

R2 is NH_2, NO_2, N(R13)(R14), $NH\text{-}SO_2\text{-}CH_3$, $NH\text{-}SO_2$-R12, NR11-SO_2-R12, N(CO)R11, NHCONR11, $N(C_1\text{-}C_6\text{-alkyl})N^+(C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-alkyl})_3$ or a nitrogen-containing heterocycle, wherein said heterocycle is bonded via a nitrogen atom;

R3, R4, R5 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, $O\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, $O\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_4)$-alkoxy-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$-alkyl, $S\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$-alkenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$-cycloalkyl, $O\text{-}(C_3\text{-}C_8)$-cycloalkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$-cycloalkenyl, $O\text{-}(C_3\text{-}C_8)$-cycloalkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$-alkynyl, aryl, O-aryl $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$-alkylene-aryl, $O\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_8)$-alkylene-aryl, S-aryl, $N((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{-alkyl})_2$, $SO_2\text{-}CH_3$, COOH, $COO\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl or $CO\text{-}N((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{-alkyl})_2$;

R6 is H, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, $O\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, $O\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_4)$-alkoxy-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$-alkyl, $S\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$-alkenyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$-cycloalkyl, $O\text{-}(C_3\text{-}C_8)$-cycloalkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$-cycloalkenyl, $O\text{-}(C_3\text{-}C_8)$-cycloalkenyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$-alkynyl, aryl, O-aryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_8)$-alkylene-aryl, $O\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_8)$-alkylene-aryl, S-aryl, $N((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{-alkyl})_2$, $SO_2\text{-}CH_3$, COOH, $COO\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl or $CO\text{-}N((C_1\text{-}C_6)\text{-alkyl})_2$;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. (original). The compound of Claim 2 wherein

A is aryl wherein said aryl is optionally substituted by F, Cl, Br, NO_2, CF_3, OCF_3, CN, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, aryl, CON(R11)(R12), N(R13)(R14), OH, $O\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, $S\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl, N(R15)$CO(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl or $COO\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl;

R11, R12, R13, R14, R15 are each independently H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl or heterocycle;

m is 1;

R1 is R8, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkylene-R8, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, (SO_2)-R8, $(SO_2)\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkylene-R8, $(SO_2)\text{-}(C_2\text{-}C_6)$-alkenylene-R9, (C=O)-R8, $(C{=}O)\text{-}(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkylene-R8,

(C=O)NH-R8, (C=O)-(C_2-C_6)-alkenylene-R9, (C=O)-NH-(C_1-C_6)-alkylene-R8, (C=O)-NH-(C_2-C_6)-alkenylene-R9, COO-R8, COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkylene-R8, COO-(C_2-C_6)-alkenylene-R9, alkynylene-R9 or (C_1-C_4-alkyl)-heterocycle;

R8, R9 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, aryl, heterocycle or (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl, wherein said aryl, heterocycle and (C_3-C_8)-cycloalkyl groups are optionally mono-, di-, or tri-substituted by F, Cl, Br, I, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, NH_2, CON(R11)(R12), N(R13)(R14), SO_2-CH_3, COOH, COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or $CONH_2$;

R2 is NH_2, NO_2, N(R13)(R14), NH-SO_2-CH_3, NH-SO_2-R12, NR11-SO_2-R12, N(CO)R11, NHCONR11, N(C_1-C_6-alkyl)N^+(C_1-C_4-alkyl)$_3$ or a nitrogen-containing heterocycle, wherein said heterocycle is bonded via a nitrogen atom,

R3 is H

R4, R5 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, OCF_3, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or (C_1-C_6)-alkyl;

R6 is H;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

4. (original). The compound of Claim 3 wherein

A is aryl, wherein said aryl group is optionally substituted by F, Cl, Br, NO_2, CF_3, OCF_3, CN, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, aryl, CON(R11)(R12), N(R13)(R14), OH, O-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, N(R15)CO(C_1-C_6)-alkyl or COO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl;

R11, R12, R13, R14, R15 are each independently H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or heterocycle;

m is 1;

R1 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkylene-R8;

R8, R9 are each independently F, Cl, Br, I, OH or CF_3;

R2 is NH_2, NO_2, CN, N(R13)(R14), NH-SO_2-CH_3, NH-SO_2-R12, NR11-SO_2-R12, N(CO)R11, NHCONR11, $N(C_1\text{-}C_6\text{-alkyl})N^+(C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-alkyl})_3$ or a nitrogen-containing heterocycle, wherein said heterocycle is bonded via a nitrogen atom,

R3 is H;

R4 is F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, OCF_3, O-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl;

R5 is H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, OCF_3, O-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$-alkyl;

R6 is H;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5. (original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8. (canceled).

9. (original). A method of treating obesity comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of Claim 1.

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (original). A method of reducing weight in mammals comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound of Claim 1.

14. (canceled).

15. (canceled).